

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016

Black Range Ranger District
Gila National Forest

South Wahoo Allotment #219



Prepared By: _____/s/_____ Date: 08/30/2016
Range Technician

Reviewed By: _____/s/_____ Date: 08/30/2016
Permittee

Approved By: _____/s/_____ Date: 08/30/2016
District Ranger

BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT
2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

South Wahoo Allotment

INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with Shane Shannon on August 16, 2016. With these Annual Operating Instructions you are approved for your request for non-use for personal convenience for the 2016 grazing season. This will be year # 1 of non-use for personal convenience which can be approved annually for three consecutive years; non-use for personal convenience must be approved annually. The first year following the three consecutive years of non-use for personal convenience, the allotment must be stocked with at least 90% of the allotment permitted numbers.

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Wahoo Ranch LLC	350 cattle, cow/calf	09/01-12/15

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Wahoo Ranch LLC	Total Non-Use	09/01-12/15

KEY AREA MONITORING

Although there are no cattle authorized to graze the South Wahoo Allotment during the 2016 season, this office will conduct monitoring of the allotment as schedules allow. The purpose of these monitoring inspections will be to determine compliance with the non-use agreement, detect trespass livestock from adjacent areas, and to assess general resource conditions of the allotment.

District personnel will contact you to coordinate site visits prior to monitoring; permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that existing range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences and interior pasture fences. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

No new range improvements are planned for the South Wahoo Allotment for the 2016 grazing season. If at any point during the year you determine a need for additional range improvements, or materials to maintain/reconstruct existing improvements, please contact Shane Shannon, Range Technician, or the Black Range Ranger District Range Staff, to coordinate the project.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Gila National Forest Travel Management Decision signed in September 2013 was implemented July 1, 2016, on the Black Range Ranger District. This rule prohibits cross country motorized travel and has restricted all motorized vehicle travel on the Gila National Forest (GNF) to authorized motorized routes only on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Some motorized uses are exempt from the prohibitions of the designation process. 36 CFR 212.51(a): "Motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation" (CFR 212.51(a) (8) is one of the exempted uses. The permittees and/or their employees must comply with all GNF Travel Management regulations, except those allowed under this authorization as described below:

Activities identified for the 2016 grazing season for the South Wahoo Allotment are as follows:

No activities identified outside of designated trails and roads for 2016.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

No special management Provisions.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The permittee must obtain permission from the District Ranger before conducting any earth disturbing activities on NFS lands. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc. **Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the NFS lands without written clearance from this office.**

NEPA AND APPEAL RIGHTS

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the South Wahoo Allotment dated September 25, 1995, and are not eligible for appeal under 36 CFR 214.4 (a): "Issuance of annual operating instructions does not constitute a permit modification and is not an appealable decision".

